

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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O 012149Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CA

SUBJECT: DRAFT DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS RELEASE ON
CANADIAN DECISION ON INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT.

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF DRAFT DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PRESS RELEASE ON CANADIAN DECISION NOT TO CONTINUE GIVE
PROVISIONAL EFFECT TO 1978 INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT.
TEXT IS STILL BEING CLEARED WITHIN USG AND IS SUBJECT
TO MODIFICATION. TEXT COULD BE ADDITIONALLY MODIFIED IN
LIGHT OF CONTENT OF GOC PUBLIC STATEMENT, DEPARTMENT'S
INTENTION IS TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE IN WASHINGTON; EMBASSY
AUTHORIZED TO MAKE SIMULTANEOUS ISSUANCE IN OTTAWA. EMBASSY
WILL BE INFORMED BY TELEPHONE OF TIMING OF RELEASE, AS WELL
AS ANY MODIFICATIONS IN TEXT.

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2. TEXT OF RELEASE AS FOLLOWS. QUOTE:

- - ; - T OF STATE REGRETS THE DECISION BY THE GOVERN-
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGRETS THE DECISION BY THE GOVERN-
MENT OF CANADA NO LONGER TO GIVE PROVISIONAL EFFECT TO THE
L978 RECIPROCAL INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT. SINCE THE

CANADIAN DECISION CLOSES THEIR WATERS TO US FISHERMEN, THE UNITED STATES HAS NO OPTION BUT TO CLOSE ITS WATERS TO FISHERMEN FROM CANADA DURING ANY PERIODS WHEN CANADIAN WATERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO US FISHERMEN. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE CANADIAN ACTION WAS WARRANTED BY ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES CENTER ON ISSUES INVOLVING WEST COAST SALMON AND CERTAIN EAST COAST FISH STOCKS. WITH RESPECT TO THE ISSUE OF WEST COAST SALMON FISHERIES, THE 1978 INTERIM AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR ACCESS BY CANADIAN FISHERMEN TO NEW AREAS IN THE US SALMON FISHERY ON CONDITION THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CLOSE ITS SWIFTSURE BANK AREA SALMON FISHERY FROM APRIL 15 - JUNE 14. THE U.S., ON TWO OCCASIONS, REQUESTED FOR CONSERVATION REASONS THAT THIS CLOSURE BE INSTITUTED, BUT CANADA, DISAGREEING ON THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION MEASURES IN THE AREA, WHERE MOST OF THE SALMON PRESENT DURING THAT PERIOD ARE OF US ORIGIN, DECLINED TO INSTITUTE FULL CLOSURE OF THE SWIFTSURE BANK AREA UNTIL MAY 15. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE US WAS UNDER NO OBLIGATION UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT TO GRANT EXTENDED ACCESS BY CANADIAN FISHERMEN TO US SALMON FISHERIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE US OFFERED WHAT IT CONSIDERED TO BE A PROPORTIONATE INCREASE IN ACCESS FOR CANADIAN SALMON TROLLERS. CANADA FOUND THIS OFFER UNACCEPTABLE UNLESS ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS WERE MADE BY THE UNITED STATES ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EAST COAST FISHERIES. ON THE EAST COAST, CANADA CALLED ON THE US TO TAKE ACTION TO RESTRICT EFFORTS BY UNITED STATES FISHERMEN TO INCREASE THEIR TAKE OF CERTAIN FISH STOCKS IN THE US FISHERY ZONE. THE US POINTED OUT THAT THE 1978 INTERIM AGREEMENT IMPOSED NO SUCH OBLIGATION ON THE US AND THAT THE US HAD NO LEGAL BASIS FOR TAKING SUCH ACTION WITHIN THE PERIOD OF TIME CONTEMPLATED BY CANADA.

THE U.S. INTENDS TO PROCEED WITH LEGISLATION APPROVING THE 1978 INTERIM AGREEMENT IN HOPE THAT BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO RATIFY ITS PROVISIONS WILL BE ATTAINED IN DUE COURSE. IN THE MEANWHILE, THE UNITED STATES WILL COOPERATE WITH CANADA TO MODERATE ACTIONS ON BOTH SIDES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE ATMOSPHERE FOR EVENTUAL RESUMPTION OF RECIPROCAL FISHING ARRANGEMENTS. THE US BELIEVES THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION ILLUSTRATES THE WEAKNESS OF INTERIM RECIPROCAL FISHERIES AGREEMENTS AS

COMPARED WITH LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS THAT INCLUDE MECHANISMS FOR SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES. THE ISSUES BROUGHT TO LIGHT IN THE CURRENT INSTANCE REPRESENT THE KIND OF PROBLEMS THAT WOULD BE SUSCEPTIBLE OF SOLUTION IN THE CONTEXT OF A

LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES AND BOUNDARIES AND A MUTUALLY
AGREED REGIME FOR LIMITS ON SOLMON INTERCEPTION. BOTH
CANADA AND THE US, IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, HAVE AGREED
TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT;
AND SPECIAL NEGOTIATORS, AMBASSADOR MARCEL CADIEUX OF CANADA
AND LLOYD CUTLER OF THE US HAVE AGREED TO MEET IN MID-JUNE
AND AGAIN SHORTLY THEREAFTER TO PURSUE THE NEGOTIATIONS
INTENSIVELY. END QUOTE. VANCE

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